

Scottish Registrars

your day, your way



Civil Marriages in Scotland

The nature of civil marriage has changed dramatically since it was first introduced in Scotland in 1940. Historically, civil marriages were governed by strict rules, and could only take place in the office of an authorised registrar, on Monday to Friday, in a short ceremony which focused mainly on the legal requirements of marriage. However, today this couldn't be further from the case. The rules have changed and there is much greater flexibility – there are almost as many different kinds of civil marriage ceremony as there are couples.

Registrars understand the diverse needs of people today, and can reflect the culture and social mix in our communities. As a result, many civil marriages now include personal touches such as live music, readings and additional vows, making the ceremony unique to the couple. A modern registrar will encourage couples to make their own contributions to the ceremony, and there is huge scope to include friends, children and family members. Guests can also be encouraged to take an active part in the ceremony, and these changes make everyone feel really involved.

Although traditionally civil marriages were entirely non-religious, there is now no set format and religious context can be included if the couple wish. If you are considering a civil marriage, you may want to think about hand fasting, sand ceremonies, remembrance candles or the well-known Scottish tradition of drinking from the Quaich, all of which are now possible.

Civil marriage ceremonies take place almost anywhere, and at times including Saturdays and Sundays. Local authorities no longer need venues to be licensed for a wedding, and this freedom allows for much greater choice of venue – you can be married in a hotel, castle, beauty spot, on a beach, in your garden or even on a boat; essentially any location that is special to the couple. The role of the registrar is also unique – only registrars can guide you through the whole marriage process, including:

- Choosing a venue
- Submitting marriage notices and checking all the required documentation
- Tailoring the ceremony
- Registering the marriage
- Issuing a marriage certificate

A civil marriage gives you the opportunity to have a ceremony truly reflecting your personalities, and registrars will assist you every step of the way to make sure it is a day to remember.

Council Name

Email Address

Phone

Aberdeen City	registrars@aberdeencity.gov.uk	01224 522616
Aberdeenshire	Peterhead.registrar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	01779 403740
Angus	regmontrose@angus.gov.uk	01674672351
Argyll and Bute	Gemma.cummins@argyll-bute.gov.uk	01631 567908
Clackmannanshire	registration@clacks.gov.uk	01259 723850
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	registrars@cne-siar.gov.uk	01859 502367
Dumfries and Galloway	dumfriesregistrar@dumgal.gov.uk	01387 245906
Dundee	registrars@dundeecity.gov.uk	01382 435222
East Ayrshire	registrar@east-ayrshire.gov.uk	01563 576695
East Dunbartonshire	Registration.services@eastdunbarton.gov.uk	0300 123 4510
East Lothian	haddingtonregistrars@eastlothian.gov.uk	01620 827308
East Renfrewshire	registrars@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk	0141 577 3008
Edinburgh	registrars.lothianchambers@edinburgh.gov.uk	0131 529 2600
Falkirk	registration@falkirk.gov.uk	01324 506580
Fife	fife.registrars@fife.gov.uk	03451 550077
Glasgow	Mar&cpr@glasgow.gov.uk	0141 287 7658
Highland	inverness.registrars@highland.gov.uk	01463 256400
Inverclyde	registrars@inverclyde.gov.uk	01475 714250
Midlothian	registrar@midlothian.gov.uk	0131 2713281
Moray	elgin.registrar@moray.gov.uk	01343 554600
North Ayrshire	Registrarsirvine1@north-ayrshire.gov.uk	01294 310000
North Lanarkshire	Registrars-coatbridge@northlan.gov.uk	01236 856430
Orkney	Chief-registrar@orkney.gov.uk	01856 850854
Perth and Kinross	Perth-registrars@pkc.gov.uk	01738 475121
Renfrewshire	Registrar.cs@renfrewshire.gov.uk	0300 300 0310
Scottish Borders	lisa.davenport@scotborders.gov.uk	0300 100 1800
Shetland	registrar@shetland.gov.uk	01595 744562
Stirling	registrar@stirling.gov.uk	01786 233961
South Ayrshire	Ayr.registrars@southayrshire.gov.uk	01292 617617
South Lanarkshire	Lindsay.robertson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk	01698 406080
West Dunbartonshire	Dumbarton.registrars@west-dunbarton.gov.uk	01389 738350
West Lothian	registration@westlothian.gov.uk	01506 282916